

Mighty Londonderry
(Community Resilience Organization)
Agenda - Tuesday April 4, 2017

Attendees: Bruce Frauman, Dick Dale, Jennifer Probst, Kevin Beattie, David Muse (Red Cross)

Meeting called to order 11:05 by Bruce Frauman.

1. No Changes to the agenda
2. Minutes of the Feb. 14, 2017 meeting were approved.
5. David Muse, Disaster Program Manager - New Hampshire Upper Valley discussed changes in the Red Cross itself and the shelter programs specifically. The Local Disaster Relief Shelter Initiative stemmed from Tropical Storm Irene. The idea is for shelters to be self-sufficient for 24-48 hours if a town is isolated. Caches of 25 cots and blankets were provided. This initiative is on hold because of lack of funding.

A new program, the National Shelter System is being built on-line. The NSS contains information for over 56,000 potential shelter facilities and is used to track and report shelter information during disasters, according to the Red Cross web site. David Muse will use the information provided from the application already underway for Flood Brook School to enter data into the NSS. According to the application, the school could have a capacity for 125 overnight shelter seekers and 300 as a warming facility. Since the survey for Flood Brook has been completed and the school is essentially the same, we can skip the inspection. We will still work toward a completed facility use agreement.

Kevin noted that during TS Irene, there were zero sheltering needs. Inns and hotels helped shelter people in need.

David said there are three types of Red Cross recognized shelters.

1. A Red Cross Managed shelter has an active Red Cross presence in the shelter. The Red Cross takes care of the feeding, funding, and liability insurance. Active Red Cross volunteers with a support staff is present. If we feel we need this level of shelter, a formal request would be sent to the DEMHS watch officer or a RC dispatch center.

2. In a Red Cross Supported shelter, the RC provides physical resources such as cots and blankets. The human resources are local.

After 3 days, we can ask for help from the Certified Emergency Response Team. If the RC does not have command and control, the RC does not cover liability. We need to ask PACIF (VLCT) if our policy covers shelters. David said the LDSI program was established here with this level of shelter and the RC has approved this facility. He added that porte-potties can be made available with 1 provided per 20 people sheltered. He will try to provide us with cots and blankets.

3. Partner-Managed shelters are everything else. The town or city has it all covered and does not need RC resources.

We need to start with Neal McIntyre to look into liability insurance should Flood Brook be used as a shelter. We may need to ask the RED, the Taconic-Green School District (not yet active), and the BRSU. We need to look into who provides the liability insurance: the building owners or the users.

Situations when a shelter might be needed include a long-term power outage, a tornado, severe community health issues, individuals with health issues that need power for devices such as CPACs, and forced evacuations, for instance due to a wildfire.

Sometimes needs spike if an emergency continues more than 2 days. People need hot food, electricity, heat and more. We need to use up local resources before asking for food, for instance, from the DEMHS. We will need an agreement with Clark's, for instance, for food. If food is provided on a large scale, it will be served at Flood Brook. We also need to consider medical needs. Fortunately, the Rescue Squad has several RN's as well as two PA's in its ranks. Although coordination between EMDs is possible, Kevin prefers to work through the DEMHS and through the WRC which feeds information to the state.

David Muse is willing to provide trainings for shelter volunteers. 15 people is a minimum requirement for a sheltering class.

The Red Cross is sponsoring a Disaster Boot Camp on April 21-23, which is mostly team training and is a recruiting tool event for Red Cross volunteers. It will not include training in sheltering. July 17-18 will be a training for Windham County volunteer groups and will include sheltering.

3. Bruce will arrange for a TV or projector and screen for the VT Alert presentation to the Board on April 17.

4. What do we want to test in our proposed Mock Drill? Kevin wants the town's EOC activated and to include all first responding agencies. Jeff Duda will be included in the planning. Dick would like to include both churches and Neighborhood Connections. We will plan for a Saturday between 9 am and 1 pm, and are aware that the the Farmer's Market is held at the same time.

Another meeting is justified to ask who takes responsibility among the "soft responders" including the Mountain Valley Medical Clinic.

6. Bruce and Jennifer will attend the CRO summit on April 29.

7. Bruce will send info about the Climate Economy Model Communities program to SMS because they hosted Bill Mckibben as a speaker.

8. It may be that the table top exercise will bring in more people to Mighty Londonderry.

9. The next meeting is set for May 2 at 6:30 pm. (Unless a proscribed burn takes place that day)

10. No other business.

11. Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.